Microscope Cleaning Procedure of the University of New Hampshire Instrumentation Center (UIC)

In general, care should be taken to properly use and store microscopes per the users manual provided. This includes the following:

1. Using the instrument per the instruction manual for the exact make and model of instrument being used.
2. Carefully cleaning and storing the instrument with proper equipment and dust cover as indicated in the users manual.
3. Not forcing anything which is difficult to move.
4. Changing fuses and bulbs can be done by the instrument operator if the unit is unplugged and the proper fuse/bulb is installed. Otherwise, the University Instrumentation Center should be contacted to do the repair/replacement.
5. Not understanding features such as "stage lock" and "stage friction control" is a very common problem. Please review the user's manual if stages either cannot be moved, stick or slip.

Cleaning Instructions:

1. It is NOT recommended to remove eyepieces or objectives unless absolutely necessary as dust, etc. can enter an otherwise "sealed" system.
2. Gently blow or brush dust from lenses BEFORE using lens fluid and cleaning tissue. (This will help prevent dust and dirt from scratching lens.)
3. Apply a small amount of lens cleaning fluid to proper lens cleaning tissue and gently move in a circular direction from the center outwards as needed. (note: some instructions suggest otherwise – this is the method used at UNH).
4. Check to make sure the power cord and switch are not frayed and work well. If they need work, contact the UIC for proper servicing/replacement.
5. If available, a small amount of lubricant such as white lithium grease can be applied ONLY to parts that move such as the microscope holder hinge and stage gears and slides.

Extreme care should be taken to properly use immersion oil. Not doing so results in lenses that cannot be seen through (extremely hazy) and the oil is very difficult to remove.

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